

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CPR-02 SS-20 NSC-10 L-03 SY-10

VO-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 EURE-00

INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DRC-01 /088 W

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O 131457Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4619

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, UR, US

SUBJ: TRAVEL RECIPROCITY

REF: STATE 242752

1. RE PARA 1 REFTTEL, AIRGRAM REQUESTED IS UNDER PREPARATION AND WILL BE SUBMITTED ASAP. IN MEANTIME EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ELUCIDATION OF NATURE OF HIGH-LEVEL SOVEMBASSY COMPLAINT RE TRAVEL CONTROLS. IN GENERAL, SOVIETS ARE CERTAINLY NOT RPT NOT AGGRIEVED PARTY IN THIS MATTER AS THEY CONTINUE TO BE UNRESPONSIVE TO U.S. PROPOSALS TO REDUCE OR ABOLISH TRAVEL CONTROLS. OVER RECENT MONTHS SOVIET ADMINISTRATION OF CONTROLS HAS FOLLOWED PREVIOUS PATTERN, WITH EMBASSY CONTINUING TO EXPERIENCE TRAVEL TURNDOWNS TO OPEN CITIES "FOR TEMPORARY REASONS," PRESUMABLY REFLECTING SOVIET SECURITY CONCERNS. (EACH REFUSAL IS REPORTED TELEGRAPHICALLY TO DEPARTMENT.) ONLY LIBERALIZATION WE HAVE NOTED IS FORTHCOMING SOVIET RESPONSE TO OUR REQUESTS FOR 48-HOUR EXCEPTIONS.

2. RE PARA 2, EMBOFFS WHO SERVED AS EUR/SOV TRAVEL OFFICERS CONTINUOUSLY FROM APR 69 TO JULY 73 INTERPRETED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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U.S. TRAVEL REGS AS ALLOWING USE OF AT LEAST ONE AIR-

PORT SERVING OPEN CITY IN CLOSED AREA EVEN IF AIRPORT WAS OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS. OTHERWISE SUCH CITIES IF LOCATED FAR FROM WASHINGTON (E.G., MIAMI, MINNEAPOLIS, LOS ANGELES, SEATTLE, PITTSBURGH), WOULD NOT EFFECTIVELY BE OPEN. MOREOVER, THERE ARE NUMEROUS SOVIET OPEN CITIES IN CLOSED AREAS, TO WHICH EMBOFFS SOMETIMES FLY (TALLIN, RIGA, VILNIUS, LVOV, ALMA ATA, NAKHODKA, ETC.). EMBASSY DOES NOT, THEREFORE, BELIEVE U.S. SIDE WOULD COME OUT AHEAD IF WE DEMANDED CONCESSIONS FOR WHAT HAS ROUTINELY BEEN GRANTED IN PAST.

3. FRIENDSHIP AIRPORT IS SPECIAL CASE AND WAS TREATED IN RECENT PAST AS CLOSED IN CONSIDERATION OF MOSCOW BYKOVO CLOSURE AND SINCE SECOND CITY WHICH IT SERVES (BALTIMORE) IS EASILY REACHED BY CAR FROM WASHINGTON OR NEW YORK. EXCEPTIONS ALLOWING USE OF FRIENDSHIP WERE GENERALLY GRANTED WHEN REQUESTED BY SOVIET EMBASSY. EMBASSY CONTINUES TO FAVOR MAKING USE OF FRIENDSHIP CONDITIONAL ON SOVIET OPENING OF BYKOVO, AS SUGGESTED MOSCOW A-158.

4. WITH CAVEAT PARA 2 ABOVE IN MIND, EMBASSY SUGGESTS FOLLOWING SOVIET CONCESSIONS BE SOUGHT IN RETURN FOR APPROPRIATE U.S. CONCESSIONS:

A. ACCESS TO BYKOVO AIRPORT (SEE PARA 3);

B. PERMISSION TO TRAVEL BY TRAIN TO ZAGORSK -- IMPORTANT TO EMBASSY PERSONNEL WITHOUT POV'S;

C. PERMISSION TO TRAVEL BY PLANE TO MURMANSK (TRAVEL NOW ALLOWED ONLY BY TRAIN);

D. PERMISSION TO TRAVEL BY CAR TO VLADIMIR/SUZDAL DURING ENTIRE WEEK (SATURDAY THROUGH TUESDAY ONLY AT PRESENT).MELENCAMP

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: garlanwa
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